

Message Text

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AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

C O N F I D E N T I A L STOCKHOLM 0961

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MNUC, UR, SW

SUBJECT: SWEDES EXPAND ON CONCERN OVER NUCLEAR WEAPONS IN BALTIC

REF: STOCKHOLM 941(NOTAL)

1. SWEDISH PRESS MARCH 9 TOOK UP QUESTION OF DISQUIET FELT BY GOS AFTER MARCH 8 BRIEFING FOR SELECTED JOURNALISTS BY MFA SECRETARY GENERAL LEIF LEIFLAND (WHO WAS NOT NAMED IN PRESS). MOST NOTABLY, LEIFLAND EXPLAINED THAT HE HAD BOTH LAST JULY AND LAST JANUARY TAKEN UP WITH HIGH US OFFICIALS, INCLUDING SECRETARY VANCE, SWEDISH CONCERN OVER SOME OF THE IMPLICATIONS OF THE DRAFT SALT II TREATY. IN PARTICULAR, SWEDES WERE TROUBLED BY DRAFT PROVISION RESTRICTING RANGE OF SUBMARINE-LAUNCHED CRUISE MISSILES TO 600 KILOMETERS, THUS IN EFFECT INSURING THAT MISSILE-CARRYING US SUBMARINES WOULD BE OPERATING IN THE BALTIC.

2. MFA SPOKESMEN ALSO NOTED THAT TASS REACTION TO ORIGINAL SWEDISH CRITICISM OF PLACING OF SIX SOVIET
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SUBMARINES WAS "ABOUT AS EXPECTED." THE GASS STATEMENT SCORNEA A "HIGH-PITCHED PROPAGANDA CAMPAIGN" IN SOME SWEDISH NEWSPAPERS OVER THE SUBMARINES, WHICH WAS DESCRIBED AS "GROUNDLESS." SWEDES NOTE THAT TASS ITEM, PUBLISHED ONLY FOR EXTERNAL CONSUMPTION, BUT NOT DENY PRESENCE OF SUBMARINES.

3. COMMENT: BY ALLUDING TO HIS PREVIOUS DEMARCHES IN WASHINGTON, LEIFLAND WAS UNDOUBTEDLY ATTEMPTING TO RENEW SWEDEN'S CREDENTIALS AS A TRUE NEUTRAL, BALANCING CRITICISM OF ONE SUPERPOWER WITH CRITICISM OF THE OTHER. SWEDES WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY BE HAPPIEST IF ALL NUCLEAR SUBMARINES WERE REMOVED FROM BALTIC AREA, AS THEY FEEL PRESENCE OF OPPOSING NUCLEAR SUBMARINE FLEETS CLOSE TO THEIR BORDERS CAN ONLY INCREASE TENSION.
KENNEDY-MINOTT

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